

# Program Notice

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## **INFORMATION SHARING CAPABILITIES OF THE AUTOMATED CUSUM PLAN**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this notice is to announce that the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has an automated CuSum loading plan in place at several export laboratories that has the capability of providing real-time loading information.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

In February 1996, FGIS started development of an automated version of the CuSum ship-loading plan. FGIS' goal for the project was to develop a user-friendly automated system that would:

- a. Reduce the amount of time required to prepare, enter results, and complete loading logs;
- b. Eliminate mathematical computation errors;
- c. Simplify the review process for ship loading logs and certificates;
- d. Provide immediate electronic transfer of loading information to the field office for certification purposes; and
- e. Provide the capability of electronically transmitting continuous subplot information to loading facilities.

By August 1999, FGIS completed the testing phase of the project and started installation of the computer equipment at FGIS inspection laboratories in the New Orleans, LA area. To date, FGIS is operating the automated plan at all export-loading locations in the New Orleans, LA, League City, TX, and Portland, OR Field Offices.

### **3. ACTION**

Having reached the stated goals of the program, FGIS is prepared to proceed with the implementation of an electronic information sharing system. Information sharing is available at locations where the automated CuSum plan is fully operational.

Grain companies must have the following equipment and software to participate in this program:

- a. A personal computer with an ethernet card;
- b. TCP/IP networking software;
- c. A current web browser (e.g., Netscape, Internet Explorer); and
- d. A current computer operating system (e.g., Linux, OS/2, Windows 95/98).

#### **4. CONTACT**

Parties interested in participating in the program should contact their local field office.

**/s/ David Orr**

David Orr, Director  
Field Management Division